

CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer implemented method for detection of items stored in a computer system such as computer code, data or information, the method, comprising:~~
obtaining a signature by reading code comprising a partial section at least part of a steganographic program, wherein the steganographic program is configured to introduce steganographic items into a computer file; capable of introducing the items, the code incorporating sufficient data to characterise the program adequately, using the code as the signature,
comparing the signature with one or more computer files; stored on the computer system, and if
displaying a listing of which of the one or more computer files provide a match with the signature is found, providing an indication thereof.
2. (Currently Amended) The ~~The~~ [[A]] method according to Claim 1, wherein the listing includes indication incorporates an identification of at least one of
a) ~~an item responsible for the match,~~
b) ~~the nature of the item,~~
c) the steganographic items ~~item's~~ location in a ~~the~~ computer system, and
d) ~~the matching signature.~~
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~The~~ [[A]] method according to Claim 1, wherein the code comprises a .DLL file that is read is one of the following:
a) ~~a continuous sequence of program code;~~
b) ~~a continuous sequence of program code and beginning where its program begins,~~
c) ~~a continuous sequence of program code but not more than 5% and not less than~~

0.167% of its program's code;

d) ~~a program kernel;~~

e) ~~a .DDL or .oex file; and~~

f) ~~code implementing both write to and read from a file.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to Claim 1, wherein an asserted file type is ignored when comparing the one or more computer files with the signature.

6. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to Claim 1, further comprising: ~~wherein the step of comparing the signature with files is for each file preceded by~~

~~checking a~~ the respective real file type by reading ~~a~~ the start of the one or more computer files; ~~file and~~

~~excluding files having prearranged initial byte sequences from~~ the comparison ~~comparing with the signature.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to Claim 1, wherein files not accessible by a system administrator are excluded from the comparison ~~with the signature.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to Claim 1, wherein the one or more computer files comprise ~~compared with the signature include logical wastebasket files deleted files and compressed files.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to Claim 1, wherein the one or more computer files comprise ~~compared with the signature include~~ self-extracting executable files ~~and polymorphic files.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~in~~ respect of some prearranged files are not identified in the listing ~~no indication as aforesaid is given~~ despite ~~their~~ containing code which matches the [[a]] signature.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer apparatus comprising a storage device for storing one or more files, wherein the computer apparatus is for detection of stored items such as computer code, data or information, the apparatus being programmed configured to:

a) obtain a signature by reading a partial section of code comprising at least part of a program, wherein the program is configured to introduce steganographic capable of introducing the items into a computer file; ~~the code incorporating sufficient data to characterise the program adequately;~~

b) ~~use the code as the signature;~~

e) compare the signature with the one or more files stored on the storage device; ~~computer apparatus; and~~

d) if when a match with the signature is found, providing an indication of indicate which of the one or more files provide the match thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the indication incorporates an identification of ~~at least one of:~~

a) ~~an item responsible for the match;~~

b) ~~the nature of the item;~~

e) ~~the item's location in the computer system; and~~

d) ~~the matching signature.~~

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the code of the signature comprises ~~is one of the following:~~

a) a continuous sequence of the partial section of the program code;

b) ~~a continuous sequence of program code and beginning where its program begins;~~

e) ~~a continuous sequence of program code but not more than 5% and not less than 0.167% of its program's code;~~

d) ~~a program kernel;~~

- e) a .DDL or .oex file; and
- f) ~~code implementing both write to and read from a file.~~

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 11, ~~wherein one or more predetermined~~ programmed to ignore asserted file types are not compared type when comparing files with the signature.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 11, ~~wherein the partial section of code comprises a~~ programmed to check for each file the respective real file type by reading the start of the computer file, and wherein excluding files having prearranged initial byte sequences are excluded from the comparison, and to check as aforesaid before comparing the signature with files.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 11, ~~wherein programmed to exclude files not accessible by a system administrator are~~ excluded from the comparison with the signature.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 11, ~~wherein the one or more files comprise~~ programmed to compare with the signature logical wastebasket files, deleted files and compressed files.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 11, ~~wherein the one or more files comprise~~ programmed to compare with the signature self-extracting executable files and polymorphic files.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 11, ~~wherein one or more predetermined files are not indicated~~ programmed to give no indication as aforesaid in respect of some prearranged files despite their containing code which matches a signature.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The computer readable medium software product according to Claim 31, further comprising identifying in that wherein the indication incorporates an identification of at least one of

- a steganographic) an item responsible for the match;
- b) the nature of the item;
- e) the item's location in the computer system; and
- d) the matching signature.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The computer readable medium software product according to Claim 31, wherein the signature comprises is one of the following:

- a) a continuous sequence of program code;
- b) a continuous sequence of program code and beginning where its program begins;
- e) a continuous sequence of program code but not more than 5% and not less than 0.167% of the program its program's code;
- d) a program kernel;
- e) a .DDL or .oex file; and
- f) code implementing both write to and read from a file.

25. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The computer readable medium software product according to Claim 31, wherein an the instructions provide for the computer apparatus to ignore asserted file type is not compared when comparing files with the signature.

26. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The computer readable medium software product according to Claim 31, wherein the method further comprises:

- checking a instructions provide for the computer apparatus to check real file type by reading a the start of the one or more files; file and exclude
- excluding files having prearranged initial byte sequences from the comparison with the signature, and to do so prior to comparing the signature with files.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer readable medium software product according to Claim 31, wherein the instructions provide for the computer apparatus to exclude from comparison with the signature files that are not accessible by a system administrator are excluded from the comparison.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer readable medium software product according to Claim 31, wherein the one or more files comprise instructions provide for the computer apparatus to compare with the signature logical wastebasket files, deleted files and compressed files.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer readable medium software product according to Claim 31, wherein the one or more files comprise instructions provide for the computer apparatus to compare with the signature self-extracting executable files and polymorphic files.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer readable medium software product according to Claim 31, further comprising displaying the file which provides the match, wherein the instructions provide for the computer apparatus to give no indication as aforesaid in respect of some prearranged files associated with certain file types are not displayed despite their containing code which matches the [[a]] signature.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~A tangible computer software product comprising a computer readable medium having stored therein containing computer readable instructions for controlling operation of computer apparatus to implement detection of items stored in a computer system such as computer code, data or information, wherein the computer readable instructions provide a means for controlling the computer apparatus to that, if executed by a system, cause the system to perform a method comprising:~~

obtaining a) obtain a signature by reading code comprising at least part of a program capable of introducing steganographic the items; the code incorporating sufficient data to characterise the program adequately,

~~b) use the code as the signature,~~
~~comparing e) compare the signature with one or more files; stored on the~~
~~computer apparatus, and~~
~~identifying a file which provides the match ;~~
~~d) if a match with the signature is found, to provide an indication thereof.~~

32. (New) The computer readable medium according to claim 31, wherein the method further comprises executing the one or more files, and wherein the comparison is made prior to executing the one or more files.

33. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising running a virus checking program while comparing the signature with the one or more computer files.

34. (New) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the one or more predetermined file types comprise a graphic editor.

35. (New) An apparatus, comprising:
means for storing one or more files;
means for obtaining a signature by reading a partial section of code of a program,
wherein the program is configured to introduce steganographic items into a computer file;
means for comparing the signature with the one or more stored files; and
when a match with the signature is found, means for indicating which of the one or more stored files provide the match.